

Application Serial No. 10/708,597
Docket No. 60655.6200
Preliminary Amendment dated June 8, 2004

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In the Specification:

Please replace the list of inventors that begins before paragraph 0001 with the following:

Brian Barnes

Fred Bishop

David S. Bonelle

Peter D. Saunders

Please replace paragraph 0006 with the following re-written paragraph:

[0006] One of the more visible uses of the RFID technology is found in the introduction of Exxon/Mobil's Speedpass® and Shell's EasyPay® products. These products use transponders placed in a fob or tag which enables automatic identification of the resource when the fob is presented at a Point of Sale (~~POI~~ POS) device. Fob identification data is typically passed to a third party server database, where the identification data is referenced to a resource (e.g., resource) credit or debit account. In an exemplary processing method, the server seeks authorization for the transaction by passing the transaction and account data to an authorizing entity. Once authorization is received by the server, clearance is sent to the point of sale device for completion of the transaction. In this way, the conventional transaction processing method involves an indirect path which causes undue overhead due to the use of the third-party server. As such, a RFID system which includes instantaneous and automatic task reporting, performance tracking and project planning is desired.

Please replace paragraph 0007 with the following re-written paragraph:

[0007] A system and method for facilitating the use of RFID technology to track resource performance and task completion is disclosed. The transponder-reader system described herein may include a RFID reader operable to provide a RF interrogation signal for powering a transponder system, receiving a transponder system RF signal, and providing transponder system account data relative to the transponder system RF signal. The transponder-reader system may include a RFID protocol/sequence controller in electrical communication with one or more interrogators for providing an interrogation signal to a transponder, a RFID authentication circuit for authenticating the signal received from the transponder, a serial or parallel interface for

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interfacing with a point of interaction (POI) terminal, and an USB or serial interface for use in personalizing the RFID reader and/or the transponder. The transponder-reader system may further include a fob including one or more transponders (e.g., modules) responsive to one or more interrogation signals and for providing an authentication signal for verifying that the transponder and/or the RFID reader are authorized to operate within the transponder-reader system. In this way, the fob may be responsive to multiple interrogation signals provided at different frequencies. Further, the fob may include a USB or serial interface for use with a computer network or with the RFID reader.

Please replace paragraph 0031 with the following re-written paragraph:

[0031] The present invention may be described herein in terms of block diagrams, screen shots and flowcharts, optional selections and various processing steps. Such functional blocks may be realized by any number of hardware and/or software components configured to perform to specified functions. For example, the present invention may employ various integrated circuit components (e.g., memory elements, processing elements, logic elements, look-up tables, and the like), which may carry out a variety of functions under the control of one or more microprocessors or other control devices. Similarly, the software elements of the present invention may be implemented with any programming or scripting language such as C, C++, Java, COBOL, assembler, PERL, extensible markup language (XML), JavaCard and MULTOS smart card technologies with the various algorithms being implemented with any combination of data structures, objects, processes, routines or other programming elements. Further, it should be noted that the present invention may employ any number of conventional techniques for data transmission, signaling, data processing, network control, and the like. ~~For a basic introduction on cryptography, review a text written by Bruce Schneier entitled "Applied Cryptography: Protocols, Algorithms, and Source Code in C," published by John Wiley & Sons (second edition, 1996), herein incorporated by reference.~~

Please replace paragraph 0035 with the following re-written paragraph:

[0035] As used herein, a resource may include any user, person, employee, employer officer, entity, manager, business, client, corporation, customer, contractor, administrator, operator,

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equipment, supply, package, machinery, hardware and/or software. Employer, as used herein, may include any performance tracking entity, manager, controller, auditor, administrator, operator and/or company.

Please replace paragraph 0052 with the following re-written paragraph:

[0052] The data may be used by protocol/sequence controller 208 for data analysis and used for management and control purposes, as well as security purposes. Authentication circuitry may authenticate the signal provided by RFID reader 104 by association of the RFID signal to authentication keys stored on database 212. Encryption circuitry may use keys stored on database 212 to perform encryption and/or decryption of signals sent to or from RFID reader 104. For a basic introduction on cryptography, review a text written by Bruce Schneier entitled "Applied Cryptography: Protocols, Algorithms, and Source Code in C," published by John Wiley & Sons (second edition, 1996), herein incorporated by reference.

Please replace paragraph 0061 with the following re-written paragraph:

[0061] Fob 102 may include means for enabling activation of the fob by the resource. In one exemplary embodiment, a switch 230 which may be operated by the user/resource of fob 102. Switch 230 on fob 102 may be used to selectively or inclusively activate fob 102 for particular uses. In this context, the term "selectively" may mean that switch 230 enables the resource to place fob 102 in a particular operational mode. For example, the resource may place fob 102 in a mode for enabling tracking the resource's performance of a specific task using a selected task number. Alternatively, the fob may be placed in a mode as such that the fob account identifier is provided by USB port 132 (or serial port) only and fob transponder 114 is disabled. ~~In addition, the term "inclusively" may mean that fob 102 is placed in an operational mode permitting fob 102 to be responsive to the RF interrogation and interrogation via the USB connector 132. In one particular embodiment, switch 230 may remain in an OFF position ensuring that one or more applications or accounts associated with fob 102 are non-reactive to any commands issued by RFID reader 104, as used herein, the OFF position may be termed the "normal" position of the activation switch 230, although other normal positions are contemplated.~~

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Please add the following new paragraph 0061.1:

[0061.1] In addition, the term "inclusively" may mean that fob 102 is placed in an operational mode permitting fob 102 to be responsive to the RF interrogation and interrogation via the USB connector 132. In one particular embodiment, switch 230 may remain in an OFF position ensuring that one or more applications or accounts associated with fob 102 are non-reactive to any commands issued by RFID reader 104. In another example, fob 102 may be activated by default, but the resource can deactivate fob 102 when the resource comes in the vicinity of RFID reader 104 to prevent fob 102 from engaging with RFID reader 104. As used herein, the OFF position may be termed the "normal" position of the activation switch 230, although other normal positions are contemplated.

Please replace paragraph 0101 with the following re-written paragraph:

[00101] FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary flow diagram for the operation of system 100A. The operation may be understood with reference to FIG. 1A, which depicts the elements of system 100A which may be used in an exemplary transaction. The process is initiated when a resource desires to present fob 102 for performance tracking (step 802). Upon presentation of fob 102, the employer initiates the RF performance tracking transaction via RFID reader 104 (step 804). In particular, RFID reader 104 sends out an interrogation signal to scan for the presence of fob 102 (step 806). The RF signal may be provided via RFID reader antenna 106 or optionally via external antenna 108. The resource RF interrogation signal then may present activates fob 102 for performance tracking (step 808) and fob 102 is activated by the RF interrogation signal provided.

Please replace 0108 with the following re-written paragraph:

[00108] For example, a resource database 1130 may access a master resource calendar 1180 for scheduling all resources. Master resource calendar 1180 may additionally access resource application calendar 1182 to access calendar and schedule information relating to the applications to which a resource 1130 may be assigned. Resource database 1130 may also access a resource schedule 1132 for scheduling that specific resource. Additionally, resource database 1130 may access a resource skills database 1134 comprising information relating to the

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various skills of a resource 1130. Resource database 1130 may access a resource application database 1154 comprising information relating to the application that the resource 1130 is assigned to support. Further, resource database 1130 may access a resource application category 1136 comprising information relating to specific category subset of an application that a resource is assigned to support. Finally, resource database 1130 may access a manager database 1110 comprising information on managers and the portfolios for which the managers are responsible.

Please replace paragraph 0109 with the following re-written paragraph:

[00109] With further reference to an exemplary embodiment depicted in FIG. 2,11, application 1150 may also interface with a plurality of databases. For example, a manager privilege class 1112 database may access application 1150 to obtain information regarding the queues of problem tickets assigned to various managers 1110. Resource applications 1154 may also access application 1150 in order to provide resource and/or resource database 1130 updates, changes and/or other information to application 1150. Application 1150 may further be accessed and divided into various sub-application categories 1152. Application categories 1152 may be further accessed by application category skills 1142 in order to determine what skills 1140 are needed to support application category 1152. Application categories 1152 may also be accessed by resource application categories 1136 in order to link resources resource databases 1130 to applications 1150.